



The Story Houston - 9|1|19 - Sermon Study Guide - Pt. 5: *The Most Important Sermon Ever, and the Woman Who Preached It*  
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### ***Welcome to The Story...***

and to our August sermon series called ***Knowing Her Place***. For five weeks, we've been exploring every detail of several personal encounters Jesus had with women from all walks of life. Today we're wrapping up this series by learning about the woman who delivered the most important message in history - *Mary Magdalene*.

### ***Before We Begin...***

**How has this series shaped your understanding of the role and status of women in Jesus' movement? Have you learned anything new? If so, what?**

### ***Beside Every Great Man...***

**Who were John and Susanna Wesley? What's the most interesting thing you heard about Susanna Wesley today? Why was her life so extraordinary?**

**How did Susanna Wesley hold everything together when her life was so chaotic?**

### ***The Women Who Loved Jesus***

**Why do you think it is so significant that Jesus had so many prominent female disciples?**

**Luke 8:1-3** After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

**What's so interesting about Joanna?**

### ***The Magnificent, Misunderstood Mary Magdalene***

**What have been some of the historical misunderstandings about Mary Magdalene?**

**Besides the fact that she was Jewish, what do we actually know about her?**

**John 20:11-18** Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying...she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them...Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

**Why would Mary Magdalene have been the least likely candidate to become the first witness to the resurrection?**

**Why did Jesus surround himself with people like Mary Magdalene?**

**What is the "sermon" that God might be calling you to "preach"?**

**And to whom might God be calling you to bear witness?**